

While the loss of Steve Thompson to the state of California and the health care community is great, it is also of great personal loss to me. Steve and I attended grammar school together and were life long friends. I will always cherish my memories of Steve, he was a "good troublemaker" as one of our friends put it. Doris and I will dearly miss his friendship.

Steve is survived by his wife, Nancy; his sister, Dagmar, and his four children, Peter, Schuyler, Hallie, and Scott.

Mr. Speaker, as Steve Thompson's family members and friends gather to honor his legacy and many contributions, I am honored to pay tribute to one of my closest friends. His successes are unparalleled. I ask all my colleagues to join with me in paying my respect and acknowledging the deeds and life of an extraordinary man.

TRIBUTE TO EASTSIDE  
COMPASSIONATE MISSION, INC.

**HON. DALE E. KILDEE**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 8, 2004*

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to acknowledge the 10th anniversary celebration of the Eastside Mission of Flint, Michigan, which took place on Friday, August 27, 2004, during their fourth annual back to school carnival.

Pastor Bill Burdine and his wife Barbara established Eastside Compassionate Mission Center, Inc. in 1994. The mission is an independent ministry of the Eastern Michigan District of the Nazarene Church. Over the 10 years in operation, the mission has served a quarter million meals, and distributed several tons of food from its food pantry to the needy. Currently the mission has 1,594 households on their rolls and 426 infants registered. The mission is blessed to have a volunteer medical team that visits regularly to provide free health screenings, answer questions, take blood pressure, and make referrals and appointments. The mission also has an optometrist and chiropractor that visit and provide services as needed, also free of charge.

The Eastside Mission is doing marvelous things in the name of our Lord. I commend Pastor and Mrs. Burdine for their leadership, hard work and unwavering dedication to sustain this ministry. Colossians 4: 14-15 reads; "And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness." To that fact I also commend the volunteers who donate hours of their personal time and talent to assisting the less fortunate. The Burdines stated that they praise God for the victories however so few and they pray to God for a mighty harvest for their friends.

Mr. Speaker, as a former seminarian, I truly understand the important role the Church plays in our lives, and as such, I am honored to have people such as Pastor Bill and Barbara Burdine in my district. Self-evident is their lifelong commitment to enhancing the dignity and spirit of people, and our community is a better place thanks to their dedication to performing the Lord's work. I ask my colleagues in the 108th Congress to please join me in wishing them another decade of success.

HONORING THE DISTINGUISHED  
PUBLIC SERVICE OF REVEREND  
MICHAEL YOSHII

**HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 8, 2004*

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Reverend Michael Yoshii, a clergyman in the city of Alameda, California. Reverend Yoshii has quickly become an integral part of Alameda's Asian community as a champion in the struggle for both human and civil rights. Reverend Yoshii will be honored for his outstanding contributions at a reception in his honor on Saturday, October 16, 2004.

A third-generation Japanese American, Reverend Yoshii has been a strong advocate and spokesperson for a number of important issues, such as housing for the poor, racial diversity, and civil liberties. Reverend Yoshii has also helped to initiate discussion forums among Alameda's citizens, in an effort to encourage those of different ethnic and cultural backgrounds to become better acquainted.

Reverend Yoshii has also been responsible for the creation of several school and community programs. In particular, he was instrumental in the establishment of the Alameda Multicultural Community Center. This center offers services to the Alameda community ranging from yoga classes to children's art classes. Reverend Yoshii has also contributed to the creation of several youth projects, including the Asian Pacific Youth Institute and the Asian Pacific Peer Counseling Project.

Several years ago, Reverend Yoshii worked alongside community members in lobbying the Alameda School District and the Alameda Board of Education to conduct a diversity audit. The diversity audit produced new hiring goals to increase diversity among the district's workforce. Reverend Yoshii has also helped reinvigorate programs like the Organization of Alameda Asians, which promotes voter registration for the Alameda community. He also was the convener for the Coalition of Alamedans for Racial Equality (CARE), a community response to racial controversy within the Alameda Police Department. Currently, CARE has evolved into a multicultural training program for students to address issues surrounding identity, culture, and racism.

I join in congratulating Reverend Yoshii for his commitment in creating new multicultural relationships in Alameda. I am confident Reverend Yoshii will continue to be an invaluable resource to the city and a tremendous asset.

HONORING ANN GRACE SMITH

**HON. JIM DAVIS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 8, 2004*

Mr. DAVIS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Ann Grace Smith, a Tampa Bay native who before losing her own battle with Lou Gehrig's Disease last month, helped countless other ALS patients through their own struggles with this disease.

Ann had been a University of Florida graduate, accountant, dedicated wife and mother of two before she was diagnosed with ALS.

Then, at a time when she was facing her greatest personal challenge, she devoted her energy to helping others.

While struggling with ALS herself, Ann helped found the ALS Association Florida Chapter in Tampa. Throughout her 19 year illness, she served on the board of directors, helping to build up the chapter and its services to our community.

Always able to see the big picture, Ann recognized the need to support not only ALS patients, but also their caregivers. She worked to provide respite relief for caregivers to relieve the stress and burden on those providing constant care for loved ones.

On behalf of the entire Tampa Bay community, I honor Ann for her selfless dedication to serving others, and I extend my deepest sympathies to her loving husband David, her family and friends. Ann was a true inspiration.

TRIBUTE TO NATIONAL CHAMPION  
CONEJO VALLEY LITTLE  
LEAGUE TEAM

**HON. ELTON GALLEGLY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 8, 2004*

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the coaches and players of the Conejo Valley Little League team, who won 22 consecutive postseason games on their way to earning the title of U.S. Champions on August 30.

To emphasize the enormity of this accomplishment by a dozen 11- and 12-year-old ball players from my district, allow me to cite some stats. About 7,400 teams and more than 88,800 players started the post-season quest. It was a two-month odyssey that began on June 29. The boys from Thousand Oaks, California, outscored their opponents 165-29. They played their final games thousands of miles from home, in South Williamsport, Pennsylvania, before an international television audience and more than 30,000 people in the stands.

Talk about pressure.

They also lost their final game, and the world championship, to the Pabao Little League team of Willemstad, Curacao. But they turned that loss into a victory of respect when they circled the field with the Curacao players, tipped their hats to the Curacao fans and threw baseballs into the stands for souvenirs.

The Conejo Valley Little League team displayed class, talent, drive and true sportsmanship in a long string of wins on their way to becoming U.S. Champions, and during a single loss to Curacao.

As manager Tim Ginther told a reporter: "Now we're No. 2 in the world overall. That's not bad."

Political columnist and baseball fanatic George Will once observed that "sports serve society by providing vivid examples of excellence." The members of the Conejo Valley Little League team are vivid examples of excellence.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues will join me in congratulating manager Tim Ginther; coaches Jim Barrett, Rick Brower and Frank Leon; the players, James Brady, Jordan Brower, Hayden Cronenbold, Derrick Francis, Timmy Ginther, Adam Justinlano, Tyler Karp,